

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028136

71

ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:LAB

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

COMMERCE - MR. HEARN

L/NEA:BKHUFFMAN (INFO)

NEA/RA:DMORRISON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIAN REQUIREMENT RE STAR OF DAVID
CERTIFICATION

REF: JIDDA 687

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT SAG MINISTRY OF COMMERCE DIRECTIVE TO EFFECT THAT SIX-POINTED STAR IN ADVERTISING, MARKS OR WRAPPING NOT BE USED HAS NOT BEEN RESCINDED, AND THAT NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK'S REFERENCE TO PROHIBITION OF STAR OF DAVID APPEARED TO HAVE RESULTED FROM INTERPRETATION OF MINISTRY COMMERCE DIRECTIVE.

2. SINCE RECEIPT REFTEL, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY MAJOR US BANK HOLDING SOME 30 LETTERS OF CREDIT REQUIRING CERTIFICATION THAT STAR OF DAVID OR SIX-POINT STAR NOT APPEAR ON GOODS OR PACKAGES THAT IT HAS NOW BEEN ADVISED BY NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK IN JIDDA TO DELETE THIS CERTIFICATION. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY MAKING DISCREET APPROACH TO NCB, IF BELIEVES APPROPRIATE, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN PROCEDURE. INGERSOLL
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PAGE 02 STATE 028136

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